

DEPARTMENT OF ORNAMENTAL
HORTICULTURE.W. C. STEELE.
SWITZERLAND. FLORIDA.**The Trumpet Flower.**
(Tecoma Radicans).

Editor Floral Department:

This magnificent wild, American vine is also classed as Bignonia. The Tecoma is a native of Mexico. Bignonia capreolata is native of the states south and west of Virginia. The difference in them is in the time of flowering, rather than in the gorgeous orange-scarlet trumpet-shaped flowers. Bignonia capreolata blooms in spring. Tecoma radicans blooms in late summer.

Some botanists call them shrubs; I only know them as luxuriant, high-climbing, and far-reaching vines. The long tubular flowers are red outside, yellow inside, forming a dazzling blend of orange-scarlet. The corollas are beautifully scalloped, and outward twined. The flowers of both vines are born in heavy abundance.

There is an impression that the Tecoma or Trumpet flower that blooms in August and September, is poisonous. It is an erroneous belief. The blooms are fleshy, and if they fall upon the ground and are trodden upon and bruised, by bare-footed boys; or if the blooms are crushed and torn to pieces in the hands, irritation will result from the volatile oil. This is only temporary. Bathing the feet and hands in soap and water gives relief. Gray and Torrey distinctly state that the Bignonia and Tecoma have no toxic properties. These native varieties are very popular in cultivated gardens. The main consideration is a place to climb. They cover tall forest trees; and festoon themselves from tree to tree; Indian mounds, boulders and fallen trees are covered with the vines, in their wild growth.

In some large gardens whole sides of many-storied brick and stone buildings are covered with the vines. It is not uncommon in cities to see the entire ell of large houses, with a lattice from end to end screened from public view by a luxuriant Trumpet vine.

In New Orleans, many old gardens have brick walls around them. It is not uncommon to see them covered, on the inside, so densely with the Trumpet vine that they appear, from the inside view, to be a compact, tall growing hedge of green, in its season, blazing with orange-scarlet flowers.

(The Caladium is another plant that contains the highly volatile oil that irritates the hands, when the tubers are cut. It may not be generally known that the Caladium will grow beautifully from pieces, like Irish potatoes, if the tubers are cut with an eye to each piece).

Mrs. G. T. Drennan.

(Mrs. Drennan is usually very correct in whatever she writes about flowers and flowering plants. But this time she has made a slight mistake. Tecoma radicans is a native of this country, being very common in this state and found as far north and west as Illinois and Indiana.—Ed.)

Grandmother's Garden.

Florida is truly a land of flowers, there is seldom a day in the year when wild flowers may not be found in the woods and on wild uncultivated land. Yet even here there are drawbacks. One is that we can not grow many of the old-fashioned flowers that were so dear to our hearts in our childhoods' homes. A contributor to the Mayflower describes such a garden as follows:

Some of our readers in glancing over this article will remember the days of their youth when they were allowed to go into their grandmother's most cherished place of the home—stead, her garden. How beautiful it

was, how secluded, with sweet-smelling flowers everywhere, round and square beds of small size, bordered with Box kept pruned in circular or angular lines. There were no weeds in the paths; grandmother looked sharp after that; she simply would not allow it. There were no untidy corners, for grandmother would not stand for that. Everything breathed ease and comfort.

Grandmother had always a few of her most favorite flowers or sweet-smelling leaves around her in the house, plants which are no more cared for nowadays, because they have gone out of fashion.

What is the special trait of an old-fashioned garden? Where did it originate? What is it composed of? All these questions I shall try to briefly explain in this article.

In times gone by our forefathers had to work harder on their farms than the up-to-date farmer has to, on account of lack of help, machinery—in fact all the improvements of modern civilization were missing. The consequence was that very much of the work was laid on the shoulders of the good housewife. Women of those times were more fond of flowers than they are nowadays, simply because there were so few things in comparison to what we have nowadays to give them pleasure and recreation. They naturally had to fall back on the easiest obtainable pleasures of life and therefore took to raising flowers. Yet with all the duties of home and farm they could not afford to devote much time or space to them. To save in both they had their gardens right near the house.

Economy was the special trait of the old-fashioned garden, saving time and space. The walks were laid in straight or strictly circular lines which were bordered with the low growing Box. Very little grass was allowed to grow. Everything was laid out in flower beds and mostly of perennial plants or else of such that were easily raised from seed right in the garden without having the bother to start them in the greenhouse. Such a thing was almost unknown at that time. There was always a bower, overgrown with Honeysuckle and Trumpet Vine. Table and seats were provided and everything so arranged that the family could have their meals in there. Grandmother had always a corner where she cared for her sweet-smelling herbs. Sweet Lavender, Thyme, Peppermint, Sage, etc., were found in every garden.

The old-fashioned garden is an imitation of the French character in gardening. You can find those gardens today yet in France everywhere. Very poor it is in scenic beauty, as we are used to seeing it in the English landscape. Everything is kept in a certain form. Flowering as well as foliage plants are massed together in well defined beds, over the borders of which they are not allowed to grow. Yet individually that style does not lack its charms. Such flowers certainly are always neat and comfortable. The early French settlers are supposed to have started this style here and it was rigorously adhered to in the 18th and 19th centuries. Some of those old-fashioned gardens can be seen yet in some parts of Virginia and Maryland.

Let me describe such a garden to you and perhaps you may be inclined to start one. On the south side of the house is built a porch. This is all covered with Honeysuckle or the old-fashioned Seven Sisters or Mary Washington Rose. The covering is so dense that you cannot see through it in the summer time. Small window-like openings are cut through to give an outlook over the garden and the arch-like opening over the steps down to the garden. As we come down from them there stands on each side a large Hydrangea in a tub. A path opens before us, about five feet in width and bordered with dwarf Box. At the entrance of the path is an arch formed of Rambler Roses and every 25 feet is such an arch formed, but every time by a different shade of Roses. The beds on each side of the path are about 10 feet broad and are

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planted with Hybrid Perpetual Roses. Just in front of us we come to a large circular bed in the center of which is a fountain throwing its water in a basin 10 feet in diameter. The whole bed is about 20 feet in diameter and is edged with Box. It is planted out in Perennial Phloxes of very dwarf kinds.

Going half-way round the bed we cross a walk in a rectangular direction to that from which we started. But we do not take this walk but keep right on till we are opposite our starting point and once more we go through the arches of Roses and finally we stand before a beautiful bower. This is all overgrown with Clematis flammula and Trumpet Vine. Inside convenient tables and seats are provided. The bower has a substantial roof so it can give shelter in stormy weather. In front of the bower is a sun-dial, consisting of a large block of marble. This is overgrown with evergreen Ivy.

Right behind the bower the garden ends and the paths lead away on each side in a rectangular form. The garden is enclosed by a low wall about four feet high. This is all overgrown with Ivy. All around the wall is a flowering bed about six feet wide which is bordered again with Box. Here now we find real treasure in beauty. Round the bower, which is not shaded by any trees, is a bed of the scarlet Papaver Orientale in front of which is a border of the white sweet-smelling Hemerocallis. Then comes a fine patch of Lilies, of which Liliun Candidum is predominant.

We are nearing the corners of the wall and there on each side are large trees and shrubbery. Right in the shade of the trees a beautiful bed is made of the old-fashioned Foxglove. Now we turn round the corner and following the path along the wall we

find a bewildering array of flowers, mostly perennial plants. Though seemingly planted without intention of regularity yet there surely is an idea arrangement. The most noted of these perennials are Paeonies, single and double kinds, Papaver Orientale, Artemisia Abrotanum, Aconitum in varieties and in most beautiful colors, Delphiniums in varieties, Aquilegias in varieties, Campanula Media, Centaurea in varieties, Dianthus (Hardy Pinks), Dicentra spectabilis (Bleeding Heart), Gaillardias single and double, Veronica Montana, Hemerocallis flava, Iris pallida, Lychnis chalcedonica, Lysimachia, Platycodon Mariens, Eupatorium, Boltonia, Gypsophylla paniculata, Hollyhocks, Lythrum japonicum, Pentstemon in varieties, Echinopsis in varieties, Violets in varieties, etc.

Gradually we come nearer again to the house in following the walk along the wall. A sweet fragrance prevades the air and we come to a bed of Geraniums, but Geraniums such as we do not see any more. Flowers are nearly all small and insignificant, yet the fragrance of the foliage is so pleasing that you do not mind the flowers at all. There is the old Roseleaf Geranium, the Skeleton, the Oakleaf, the Peltatum, about 12 species of Geraniums with strongly perfumed foliage.

As we stand and look at those strange plants we hear a gentle cooing. Listening more attentively we follow to the end of the path near the house. A large shrubbery is planted in the angle formed by the house and the wall. A small path leads through it and all of a sudden we stand before a large cage. Small trees are planted in it and right enough there sits in one of them a pair of doves, pheasants are strutting around on the ground showing their beautiful plumage, all kinds of smaller birds fly past us from one tree to another, all mingling their